Sounding the Trumpet

January - March 2011



F.E.M.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers

General Enquiries:
Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries,
Hunslet Nazarene Church, Lupton Street, Hunslet, LS10 2QR
Enquiries: administrator@femonline.co.uk
Editor: editor@femonline.co.uk
Principal: principal@femonline.co.uk

Web Sites
www.femonline.co.uk
http://coloursofthetrinity.2ya.com
www.LWBC.co.uk
http://www.gods-honest-truth.com

The Night of Miracles

"Thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Michah 5:2).

All history was moving towards this night, and here we find the most important fulfilment of any Old Testament prophecies. Ground Zero would be a little village in Israel called Bethlehem, and so the anticipation of the ages was about to be manifested as Joseph and Mary entered it. The angels watched from Heaven as they waited to announce that the Light of the World was born.

Miracle 1 – Christ's humble birth

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called

Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).

He came from His glorious throne in Heaven to a smelly stable. As King, He does not arrive with trumpets and horses, but through the womb of Mary. This is truly a riches to rags story. This tiny baby owned the world, for it was made by Him. **"He was in the world, and the world was made by Him"** (John 1:10). This infant was the Saviour of all men. How sad it is then that the world would reject Him! But thank God that some would recognise the miracle of this night and receive Him as Lord. **"And the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"** (John 1:10-12).

Miracle 2: The heavenly host

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:8-14).

Ever since the fall of man, the angels had been interacting with man in preparation for this night. As the **"fulness of the time"** (Galatians 4:4) approached Gabriel was sent to Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah to tell them about the coming miracle of the ages. It was the angels that proclaimed the Saviour's birth to the shepherds on the Judean hillside, the very place were David was anointed as king. They sang of the miracle of this night, and that first carol service was a night to remember.

Miracle 3: Moving the hearts of men

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and

Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them" (Luke 2:15-20).

What a coincidence that the Roman Emperor decided to conduct a census at this time! Actually, it was not! God had moved the hearts and minds of men so that they would fit in with His plans. The emperor's idea was really the Lord's. Unbeknown to Caesar Augustus, with all his hatred of the Jewish religion, his decree paved the way for Israel's Messiah to be born exactly where Micah the prophet said He would be. On this night shepherds became evangelists, Zoroastrians started their long march towards Bethlehem guided by a special star (Matthew 2). The stage was set for the world to know that God was with man. **"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel"** (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23). The miracle of this night would be remembered every year by the world, but every day by the saved.

The birth of Jesus Christ is the greatest miracle of all, and the effects of it will last throughout eternity. Both shepherds and wise men came to honour and worship, and we trust that they were soundly saved from their old ways through their encounter with Him. Maybe we have lost sight of the miracle because of the presents, decorations and feasting. That miracle still stands firm for all who will receive Him as their Lord and Saviour. Praise God for the miracle of salvation!

Gary Hall

Christmas Trees and Decorations

Jeremiah 10:1-4 "Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord, learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not."

I have had conversations with a few Christians about Christmas trees. Many have them in their homes, many in their churches, but have they ever asked the question "What does God think about them?" Many Christians will admit that they come from some sort of pagan background, yet they still accept them, never questioning the implications of their use.

Firstly, as always we need to come to the Word. Nowhere in scripture does it tell us to celebrate Christ's birth. In fact we are only told to remember his death. But

like it or not, we the world celebrates Christmas every year. We can be positive and try and use this time to preach and teach about the Lord in happy fellowship with family and friends, but the worldly Christmassy razzmatazz we can well do without. Nowhere in scripture does it tell us to erect decorated trees with tinsel and fairy lights; in fact, quite the opposite.

Jeremiah's call was one of bringing repentance to a pagan, heathen generation who had gone away from the Lord, and from the scriptures. What would one of the Old Testament prophets response be today, if they witnessed the church's liberal attitudes to these trees?

"It looks Christmassy", people say. "It's beautifully decorated, it wouldn't be Christmas without a tree!" These are the sort of things the world does and says - a world that denies the power and authority of Christ - a world that does not know Him as Saviour, puts up a tree at Christmas, as a token gesture.

Who gets the glory, God or the tree? I was reading a local free magazine recently about Christmas trees, and the article, secular in nature, told of the many places where Christmas trees can be found. The author wrote that Christmas trees could be "even in the churches", as though he was surprised to see such things in the house of God. These trees have infiltrated the churches. Are these trees and decorations just another example of latter day worldliness in the church, while they take the focus off Jesus?

Richard Hardy

The Impact of the Sermon on the Mount

In Matthew chapter 4:16 we read how, " The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up". As The Light of the World stepped into that darkness He preached and called the nation of Israel to, " Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". The two fold message of John the Baptist was now proclaimed by the King of Israel who was personally moving towards establishing the glorious kingdom of God on the earth. As the King chooses and calls people to follow Him and become His subjects, so repentance therefore was essential if fellowship with God was to be re-established and an entrance into His Kingdom made possible.

In the three following chapters the Lord Jesus gives a clear teaching of what true repentance is, the fruit of it and the standard of righteousness that is required by God for entrance into His kingdom. The term "Kingdom" carries the idea of a territory or area over which a king rules. Since God rules over everything through Christ (Matthew 28:18) in this very broad sense, the Kingdom of God is universal. However, the Bible often uses the term in a narrower sense and the Sermon itself indicates that the Kingdom of heaven does not include everyone. For example, the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) specify the characteristics of those to whom belongs the kingdom of heaven, implying that those who do not possess these characteristics will not be given the kingdom. The "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord" of chapter 7:21 clearly shows that not all those who think

that they will enter the kingdom of heaven will indeed do so. In fact there is a warning that many who think they are included will in fact be excluded.
The Lord's Sermon on the Mount was not a constitution for the Kingdom nor did it present the way of salvation, but it showed how a person who was in right relationship with God should conduct their life. The Sermon may be understood in the light of the offer of the Messianic Kingdom to the nation of Israel, but it is as relevant to day to the followers of Jesus to demonstrate the standard of righteousness God demands of His people. Every redeemed child of God is known in heaven and their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, but they should be recognised here on earth by their character, conduct and privileged distinguishing mark of holiness as one who is the subject of the King of Kings and a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven. For in these chapters we have a manifesto of the Kingdom, a revelation of the King and the high standard by which His citizens are expected to live being the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Not in their own strength, by trying to attain to a standard or set of rules, but as a manifestation of the new life, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:37-38. The Sermon on the Mount reveals the true standard of righteousness which Christ requires of all that belong to Him. This standard that is set is impossible for the natural man to understand or fulfil. Only those who have been crucified with Christ, risen in newness of life, born of the Spirit of God and filled with the Spirit, have the spiritual ability not just to hear the principals of the kingdom but to act, obey and live them. "If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1 Amplified Version).
Since believers are identified with Christ, died with Christ, raised with Christ, they should set their hearts on heavenly things and be looking up to; where their King is enthroned, on the right hand of the throne of God, and waiting as if on tiptoes for His imminent return, "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). As a man thinks in his heart so is he. Conduct conveys character, so the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus should be manifest in the lives of His people. For they are positionally dead to the world, their lives are now hid with Christ in God, and doctrine and conduct can not be separated. Therefore as the redeemed have been set free from sin and death and are seated with Christ they are to apprehend by faith the promises and Spirit of God and, "Mortify [kill, deaden, deprive of power] the evil desires lurking in your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5 Amplified Version).
This is the area of conflict. Obedience brings life but disobedience brings death and the enemy of our souls is opposed to the life of Christ being manifest here on earth in us individually or collectively in His body, the Church. The work of the Lord Jesus on His cross is completed and final, it is finished, He destroyed him that had the power of death, but that work which is full and final in Him has to be full and final in the believer. As a result of the work on His cross those who believe in Him receive eternal life. That life, which is victorious and incorruptible,

has to become real and proven in the life of the believer, by the learning of its laws and conformity to it. Because that life in the believer is the life of Christ, “When Christ, who is our life”, in him and it needs nothing added. But the believer needs to live in that revelation and yield his life to Christ, that Christ may be formed in him (Colossians 3:4).

“ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Romans 8:13). The apostle Paul expressed his desire in Philippians 3:10, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection.” For this life is a preparation for the life that is to come. Matthew 5:43-48: “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 7:28,29: “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

In closing it would do us all good to closely reflect on the words of authority in Mathew 5-7 as addressed directly to us personally. For it is by its precepts and rules that our conduct must be directed and by its promises and encouragements our souls are to be sustained. Because in these very scales shall we be weighed in the day of testing and adjudication. Also to us this Sermon comes with even greater authority than to those who heard it preached in Israel some two thousand years ago. For in moving his apostles by the Spirit to record it as a permanent record of his will He speaks to us from heaven to day. Hence the exhortation and warning “See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh {who today is speaking}. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven” (Hebrews 12:25)

So let us earnestly seek the grace of God to be something more than astonished with this Sermon. But to receive it into our hearts and minds and incorporate it into our daily lives that Christ may be manifest in us and through us in this generation.

Andrew Klimek

Christ was born in Bethlehem, Hallelujah,
Son of God and Son of Man, Hallelujah.
From Him love and wisdom came, Hallelujah;
All His life was free from blame, Hallelujah.
Come and praise the Lord our King, Hallelujah,
Come and praise the Lord our King, Hallelujah.

Jesus died at Calvary, Hallelujah,

Rose again triumphantly, Hallelujah.
He will cleanse us from our sin, Hallelujah,
If we live by faith in Him, Hallelujah.
Come and praise the Lord our King, Hallelujah,
Come and praise the Lord our King, Hallelujah.

He will come to us one day, Hallelujah,
And forever with us stay, Hallelujah.
We will live with Him one day, Hallelujah,
And for ever with Him stay, Hallelujah:
Come and praise the Lord our King, Hallelujah,
Come and praise the Lord our King, Hallelujah.

Don Johnson
Tune: Michael row the boat ashore

Jonah

1:17. *" Now the LORD **had** prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights*."
Now God carried on dealing with Jonah. A close examination of this verse reveals the greatness of the foreknowledge of God. The word *"had"* is important, because it testifies that God had done this previously. This sea creature did not get to the size it was in a few days but God had prepared it many years earlier.
This reveals that God was not taken by surprise by Jonah's rebellion, nor did He have to make hasty plans to remedy the situation that was brought about by rebellion. He knew what Jonah would do just like He knows what we will do, even before we were born, and yet He does not compel us to walk a pre-ordained path.
Just like the plan of salvation, that God had planned even before Adam and Eve disobeyed Him. God had planned the salvation plan in heaven even before the world was created and man had sinned. He is gloriously sovereign, yet we are responsible and our responsibility does not cancel out His sovereignty, but rather commends and confirms it. This shows us that every situation is under His control, and that His timing is perfect. God saw to it that great fish was at the exact spot at the exact time. If the fish had been hours or even minutes late or early reaching that place in that vast Mediterranean Sea we would not have had this book to study and gain benefit from. As Jonah sank down into the deep thinking all is lost this is the end one great gulp and Jonah was inside the fish.
I am amazed that of all of creation this book reveals that only man is disobedient to the will and purposes of God. What a great God we serve and one who is completely safe to trust with every detail of our lives.
David Moody

Annual General Meeting 2011

Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries

By kind invitation our AGM will be held at

Cranfield Baptist Church
Bedford Road
Cranfield
Nr. Milton Keynes
MK43 0EU

7th May 2011

AGM: 1:30 - 2.30 pm
Refreshments provided
Report and Celebration Meeting: 4:00 pm

All members of the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries are invited to the AGM. Why not bring a friend so that they can be introduced to the work and ministry of FEM!



fem is now on facebook

Why not join us and receive up-to-date new and information about FEM and the ministries of other members.
Click the facebook logo on our homepage.

Update
January – March 2011

Every blessing for 2011
to members and associated members and friends of FEM. May the work advance on every front each day of the year.

Excerpts from the Executive Council Meeting
Saturday 18th September 2010 at FEM Main Office

Compiled by Mike and Frank.

Members present
Rev. Paddy Flynn – Chairman
Rev Terry Martin – Treasurer
Rev Gary Hall – Academy Principal
Rev Frank Rowley – Administrator
Rev David Moody – Executive Member
Mike Hewison – Administrator

Opening Devotions
Paddy read from Ephesians 2: 1-10 and gave a brief devotion, Terry then led the meeting in prayer.

Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Rev Paul Davis and from Rev Andy Nelson.

Matters arising from the minutes
Promotional DVD
Paul Davis sent a message that he was unable to undertake the task of preparing a DVD due to his health, following discussion it was agreed that

a) That we write to all FEM members asking if anyone has expertise in this field.
b) That we try and take clips of each Executive Member and others, plus film the AGM meetings.

Attractively designed FEM ties
These are now in stock and it was agreed to sell the ties at £10.00 each this will realise a profit on the total sales.

It was agreed that we look into the possibility of purchasing some metal badges for the FEM Evangelistic Academy.

2011 AGM Saturday 7th May 2011

Following discussion regarding various venues it was moved, seconded and adopted that we hold the meetings in Milton Keynes, subject to confirmation by the local church.
Cranfield Baptist Church has agreed to kindly host the FEM AGM and Celebration Outreach Rally.

FEM attendance at the AGM/Commitment of members

There was concern at the attendance of members at the AGM and following discussion it was agreed that we suggest that all members attend the AGM at least once in every three years, circumstances permitting.
It was further agreed that all Ordained Ministers bring/or send a report, of their ministry and personal standing before the Lord, to the AGM each year to continue holding accreditation. It was also agreed they should pay their membership subscriptions.
It was also agreed that all Affiliated Churches should send representation to the AGM at least once in every two years.

Establishment of a FEM fellowship/prayer line

Following discussion it was agreed that David should set up a fellowship/prayer line for FEM to encourage more contact, fellowship and prayer between and for members of the FEM and their ministry.
David was commended on his encouragement e-mail line and was assured of its effectiveness.

Other matters

The meeting considered the resignation of Ian Rowley from the Executive due to various pressures. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that we change Ian's membership of the Executive from Full to Probationary member for a period of 2 years, this will enable him to feel less pressure with the duties of Full membership, but also reflect the confidence of the Executive in Ian's potential for future leadership, together with keeping his involvement in the current activities. It will also give Ian time to develop at his own pace. It was also agreed that we offer Ian the opportunity to undertake the Diploma course during this time.

It was further agreed that we invite Richard Hardy to join the Executive as a Probationary Member of the Executive for a 2-year period, again with the confidence in his future leadership potential.

It was suggested that Richard could possibly act as a mentor for Ian with his studies.

Gary agreed to look at setting up a Facebook for FEM; he agreed to manage this on behalf of FEM to ensure that it was used in a fit and proper manner. FEM Facebook is now functional and proving most helpful and useful for members.

Christians are part of the answer not part of the problem. Holiness and happiness follow them like faithful friends. They speak quietly in the strength of the Gospel of Redeeming Grace. Usually Christians are positive rather than negative, attractive rather than repulsive. Living faith has a contagious radiance.

Christians cannot be much earthly use unless they are very heavenly minded.

The man who rows the boat generally does not have the time to rock it. (Romans 14:19) So let's pursue those things which bring peace and which are good for each other.

JESUS

The words JESUS spoke - They are read more, quoted more, loved more, believed more and translated more because they are the greatest words ever spoken. Where is their greatness? Their greatness lies in the pure lucid spirituality in dealing clearly, definitively, and authoritatively with the greatest problems that disturb and trouble the human heart and mind. JESUS is the answer for every person in every place.'

Jesus was usually faced with a highly critical audience seeking any excuse to humiliate Him. Yet JESUS never blushed with shame, never had a guilty conscience, never regretted anything He said, thought or did, never had reason to apologise and never asked or prayed for forgiveness. JESUS CHRIST is unique and beyond compare. He, who was without sin, has the authority and power to save sinners today.

By Frank Rowley.

If you have information, articles, or prayer request that you would like to be included in a future edition of the UPDATE, Please contact:

Frank Rowley,
Hunslet Nazarene Church
Lupton Street
Hunslet
LS10 2QR
Email: frankrowley@femonline.co.uk